

Advice for the IB French Exam

Paper 1

Instructions in French	Instructions in English	Strategy
<i>Indiquez dans la case la lettre qui correspond à la réponse correcte.</i>	Write the letter of the correct answer in the box.	Write the letter in the box. (NOTE: simply circling the correct letter will get you ZERO points, even if it is the correct answer. You must write the letter legibly in the box provided.)
<i>En vous basant sur les lignes X à X (ou le paragraphe X), répondez à la question suivante.</i>	Answer the following question based on lines X to X (or paragraph X).	This is a timed test, so it is essential that you narrow your search for answers to the area of the text designated by the instructions. Look for key words or synonyms of those found in the question.
<i>En vous basant sur les lignes X à X (ou le paragraphe X), reliez chaque début de phrase à la fin correspondante.</i> <i>OR</i> <i>Vous avez les débuts de phrases à gauche et des fins possibles à droite. En vous basant sur le X paragraphe, remettez chaque début avec la fin correspondante. (ATTENTION: Il y a plus de fins que de débuts et chaque fin ne peut être utilisée qu'une seule fois.)</i>	Based on lines X to X (or paragraph X), match each sentence beginning to the sentence ending. <i>OR</i> You have the sentence beginnings in the left-hand column and possible sentence endings on the right-hand column. Based on paragraph X, match each sentence beginning with the appropriate ending. (ATTENTION: There are more sentence endings than beginnings and each sentence ending can only be used once.)	Read each beginning and think of a logical end. Determine what kind of word is necessary to start the rest of the sentence. Verify that the full sentence you've chosen makes sense (= is logical/grammatically correct). Verify that the full sentence you've chosen is accurate based on what the text says. (Watch out for trick sentences that contradict what is said in the article.)

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<i>Ajoutez les mots qui manquent dans les paragraphes X et X en les choisissant dans la liste proposée ci-dessous. (ATTENTION: Il y a plus de mots que d'espaces et chaque mot ne peut être utilisé qu'une seule fois.)</i>	Using the word bank provided, add the missing word to each blank from paragraphs X and X. (ATTENTION: There are more words than blanks and each word can only be used once.)	Write down the meaning of all words in the word bank. Identify the part of speech of the words in the word bank. Plug the words into the sentence to determine if they logically fit and make sense.
<i>En vous basant sur les lignes X à X, reliez chacun des mots ou expressions du texte figurant dans la colonne de gauche avec son équivalent qui se trouve dans la colonne de droite.</i>	Basing your answer on lines X to X, match each of the following words or expressions from the text in the left-hand column with their equivalents found in the right-hand column.	Find the words in the text. Identify everything you can about the words (part of speech; if NOUN or ADJECTIVE, determine gender: masculine/feminine, number: singular, plural; if VERB, determine subject (je, tu, etc...) and tense (present, past, future, etc...)). Repeat above steps for all of the possible answers and then group those answers into pairs (for instance, group adjectives together, verbs together, nouns together, etc...). Group the question with the corresponding 2 answers and then determine which is the best answer (through logic, context, or an educated guess).

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<i>En vous basant sur le X paragraphe, trouvez les mots équivalents à ceux qui sont donnés ci-dessous.</i>	Based on paragraph X, find words in the text that are equivalent to those given below.	<p>Identify everything you can about the words in the questions (part of speech; if NOUN or ADJECTIVE, determine gender: masculine/feminine, number: singular, plural; if VERB, determine subject (je, tu, etc...) and tense (present, past, future, etc...).</p> <p>Determine what you need to look for (for example, a feminine singular noun which is a synonym for X).</p> <p>Go back to the specific part of the text and determine which word is the best equivalent. Plug the words from the questions into the sentence to determine if they logically fit and make sense.</p>
<i>Les affirmations suivantes, basées sur les paragraphes X et X, sont soit vraies, soit fausses. Cochez [✓] la réponse correcte. Justifiez votre réponse en utilisant les mots du texte. Les deux parties de la réponse sont requises pour l'obtention d'un point.</i>	The following statements based on paragraphs X and X are either true or false. Check the true or false box. Justify your answer by citing words from the text. You must check a true/false box AND justify your answer to receive a point.	<p>Read the statement and determine its meaning. Find the section of the text which either confirms or refutes that statement. Check true or false.</p> <p>Cite the smallest amount of text which logically justifies your answer. While it is OK to use more spaces than the dotted line provides, your sentence must fit in the box. Use ellipses (...) to skip over parts of a sentence that are unnecessary – keep in mind that your justification must still make sense with the ellipses.</p> <p>If you are writing more than one sentence, you are writing too much.</p>

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<i>Les questions X à X se réfèrent aux lignes X à X du texte. Ajoutez les mots qui manquent dans le résumé en les choisissant dans la liste proposée ci-dessous.</i>	Questions X to X refer to lines X to X of the following text, which is a summary of the preceding larger text. For each blank, choose the word from the word bank below that best completes the sentence.	<p>Identify everything you can about the words (part of speech; if NOUN or ADJECTIVE, determine gender: masculine/feminine, number: singular, plural; if VERB, determine subject (je, tu, etc...) and tense (present, past, future, etc...)).</p> <p>Read the words around the blank to determine what kind of word is needed (both for meaning and grammar).</p> <p>Plug the words into the sentence to determine if they logically fit and make sense.</p>
<i>A qui ou à quoi se réfère "(pronoun)" dans "(expression)"?</i>	To whom or to what does the pronoun X refer in the following expression Y.	<p>Write down what you know about the pronoun:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Le, la, les = direct (he, she, it, them) • Lui, leur = indirect (to him/her/them) • Y = à + place or à + non-living thing • En = de + thing • Celui/celle/ceux/celles – this one, these ones • Lequel/laquelle/lesquels/lesquelles – which one(s) <p>Based on what you know (type of pronoun, gender, number), read the sentence in which the pronoun is contained and the sentence immediately before that to find out to whom or to what the pronoun is referring. Plug the original noun back into the sentence with the pronoun to see if it makes sense.</p>

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Frequently asked questions

- What is the main idea or goal of the text?
 - Le but de ce texte est...
 - Quel titre convient le mieux à ce texte?
- What does a particular word or expression mean?
 - Quel mot / quelle expression signifie / veut dire ...? (Remember, if they say “quel mot”, you should only be writing ONE WORD. If they say “quelle expression”, you should be write a few words. All of these should come straight from the text.)
 - Le mot / l’expression “X” fait référence à
 - L’expression “X” / la phrase exprime...
- Cite examples from the text
 - Citez deux exemples / idées / conséquences / raisons ... du texte.
- Determine to what or to whom a pronoun refers
 - A qui ou à quoi se réfère “(pronoun)” dans “(expression)”?
 - A qui ou à quoi se rapporte “(pronoun)” dans “(expression)”?
 - Complétez le tableau suivant en indiquant à qui ou à quoi se rapportent les mots soulignés.
- Determining accuracy of statements based on text
 - Parmi les X suivants, deux sont **vrais** dans le paragraphe X. Indiquez dans les cases les lettres correspondantes.
 - Parmi les X suivants, deux sont **conformes** aux idées exprimées dans le X paragraphe. Indiquez dans les cases les lettres correspondantes.

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Paper 2

Réalisez une des tâches suivantes. Ecrivez entre 250 et 400 words.

Write a specific text type (designated by instructions) of 250-400 words on one of the options studied. Schools are required to choose 2 options from the 5, so there will be options that we did not study (such as Cultural Diversity). Unless you feel that you can write a strong text, I would recommend choosing from one of the options that we studied (bolded options).

- Diversité culturelle (Cultural diversity)
- **Coutumes et traditions (Customs and traditions - Culinary traditions)**
- **Santé (Health - Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, Eating habits, Obesity, Anorexia, Exercise, etc...)**
- Loisirs (Leisure time activities, Music, Art)
- **Sciences et technology (Animal experimentation, Human cloning, GMOs, etc...)**

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<p>DO consider all of the options and the ideas you have for each. Then choose the options with which you feel the most comfortable.</p>	<p>DON'T select an option without first considering all that are available. You have 90 minutes to write this one text, so it is important to take the time to make a good choice.</p>
<p>DO write out an outline of what will be included in your text.</p>	<p>DON'T just start writing the text without planning it out first.</p>
<p>DO write out the important elements of the text type. How are you going to make the text type recognizable? If it is a letter – there should be a date, an address, a salutation (“Cher...”), body paragraphs, a closing, and a signature. If it is an email, make it look like an email. Think about what you did for your Written assignment - be very careful to adhere to the text type indicated.</p>	<p>DON'T ignore the fact that you must include the essential elements of the text type (letter, email, speech, interview, brochure, etc...).</p>
<p>DO write your text without paying close attention to the number of words (that is, counting your words). When you go back through and edit the text, you can estimate how many words you have. It is important to meet the minimum requirement of 250 words as this counts for one point of your score.</p>	<p>DON'T count the words of your text until you have finished the 1st draft (writing) of the whole text. This is wasted time and often puts you in a state of frustration or a mental block in which you are focused on “getting enough words” instead of the quality of the writing. Accomplish the goal of the task and you will have enough words. (NOTE: Examiners will only read up to an estimated 400 words.)</p>
<p>DO go back and revise your text to make sure that you (1) accomplished the task, (2) that you have verified the grammar (are your verbs conjugated for the subject correctly? Do adjective agree with the nouns they modify?), and (3) that you have included a variety of appropriate vocabulary and verb tenses to show your abilities.</p>	<p>DON'T finish writing your first draft and then go to sleep!</p>

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Possible text types you could be asked to write:

Text type	Description
une lettre à un ami	Almost all exams have one letter option – be careful to follow format. There should be a date, an address, a salutation (“Cher...”), body paragraphs, a closing, and a signature. The language is informal and personal.
un passage d’un journal intime	Diary entry – a recounting of something that happened to a person, generally the writer, on a particular day ; personal, informal, sometimes emotional language ; always starts with a date and then « cher journal » ; use sequential language (puis, ensuite, alors, parce que...) ; ask rhetorical questions (Qu’est-ce que je dois faire ? = What should I do ?)
une entrevue, une interview	Often appearing a newspaper or magazine (or on the web), the interview generally contains a title, a short blurb about who is being interviewed and why and then the questions asked and the answers given.
une lettre officielle	There should be a date, an address, a salutation (“Cher Monsieur/Madame”), body paragraphs, a closing, and a signature. The language is formal and designed for a purpose (to persuade, for instance).
un article de magazine, de journal	Similar to newspaper article in that these are generally objective recoutings of facts, but can also contain opinions where appropriate, formal writing style; often refers to or cites information from other sources (according to....)
un blog	Web-based, opinionated writing, informal writing style
un courriel, un mail, un mél	Email – depending on the recipient, you can use a formal or informal writing style ; remember to include essential parts of an email : to, from, date, subject, salutation, email body, closing, name

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un discours	Speech – the written text of an actual speech designed to be performed in front of an audience ; includes a title, formal, persuasive language directed at audience (perhaps commands to do something)
une critique journalistique d'un livre, d'un film, d'un CD, d'un événement	Critique of a CD/book / film / event – generally written in newspaper format ; has a title and a little information about the qualifications of the critic ; gives the facts of the CD/book/film/event, then offers an opinion possibly including advice as to how to make it better. Generally is very positive or very negative. Is addressed to the audience to persuade to seek out or avoid the CD/book / film / event. Offers advice as to whether to purchase / view / go.
une brochure, un dépliant, un prospectus, un tract, un guide de recommandations	Trifold, information-based text ; includes a title ; is informative (selling something) or persuasive (addressing a problem) ; is generally produced by a company or agency ; should contain an address, a phone number, the name of the company and a website for more information ; has category headings to group related information
le récit d'imagination	Story – imaginative recounting of events
l'éditorial	Opinionated writing that appears in a newspaper, directed to an audience, formal writing style
un courrier des lecteurs	Letters to the editor – this can be a single letter to the editor about a strong opinion you have on a topic (formal language) or two letters with opposing viewpoints.
un essai	Essay – formal language generally offering an opinion on something and designed to be read by a single person (teacher)
le compte-rendu	Write-up / report – objective recounting of facts, formal writing style

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Text type	Description
un rapport officiel	Official report – similar to the « compte-rendu » but is generally done by a person working in a particular field (police report, accident report, etc...) ; an impartial recounting of the facts with a significant level of detail ; no opinions offered ; should look like a form with a date, a title, and various information to fill in
un site web	Website (it is highly unlikely that you will be asked to write a « website » given that it doesn't lend itself to a 90-minute writing task)
une chronique d'opinion	Column or gossip column (this is another unlikely task) –appears in a newspaper ; can be formal or informal ; often talks about a societal problem or a celebrity
une déclaration à la police	Similar to the official report and highly unlikely that you would be asked to write such a task on this exam ; one person's view of the events of a crime or accident with a significant level of detail ; opinions / speculation can be offered since it is one person's viewpoint ; should look like a form with a date, a title, and various information to fill in.